

**Amendment to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

**Claims 1 to 7. (canceled)**

**Claim 8 (currently amended)** A  $\kappa$  opioid receptor agonist comprising a compound or a salt thereof, the compound being selected from the group consisting of

[[.]]3-Acetyl acetyl-6-chloro-2-[2-(3-(N-(2-hydroxyethyl)-N-isopropylamino)propoxy)-5-methoxyphenyl]benzothiazoline,

[[.]]3-Acetyl acetyl-6-chloro-2-[2-(3-(N-(2-hydroxyethyl)-N-(2-methylpropyl)amino)propoxy)-5-methoxyphenyl]benzothiazoline,

[[.]]3-Acetyl acetyl-6-chloro-2-[2-(3-((2S)-2-hydroxymethylazoran-1-yl)propoxy)-5-ethoxyphenyl]benzothiazoline,

[[.]]3-Acetyl acetyl-6-chloro-2-[2-(3-((3S)-hydroxyazoran-1-yl)propoxy)-5-methoxyphenyl]benzothiazoline,

[[·]]3-Acetyl acetyl-6-chloro-2-[2-(3-(N-isopropyl-N-(2-methoxyethyl) amino)-propoxy)-5-methoxyphenyl]benzothiazoline,

[[·]]3-Acetyl acetyl-6-chloro-2-[2-(3-(N-(2-ethoxyethyl)-N-isopropylamino)propoxy)-5-methoxyphenyl]benzothiazoline,

[[·]]3-Acetyl acetyl-6-chloro-2-[2-(3-(N-(furan-2-ylmethyl)-N-isopropylamino)propoxy)-5-methoxyphenyl]benzothiazoline

[[·]]3-Acetyl acetyl-2-[2-(3-(N-(2-hydroxyethyl)-N-isopropylamino)propoxy)-5-methoxyphenyl]-5-trifluoromethylbenzothiazoline,

[[·]]3-Acetyl acetyl-5-chloro-2-[2-(3-(N-(2-hydroxyethyl)-N-isopropylamino)propoxy)-5-methoxyphenyl]benzothiazoline,

[[·]]3-Acetyl acetyl-6-chloro-2-[2-(3-(N-(2-hydroxyethyl)-N-isopropylamino)-1-methylpropoxy)-5-methoxyphenyl]benzothiazoline,

[[·]]3-Acetyl acetyl-2-[2-(3-(N-isopropyl-N-(2-methoxyethyl) amino)propoxy)-5-methoxyphenyl]benzothiazoline,

[[·]](+)-3-Acetyl acetyl-6-chloro-2-[2-(3-(N-isopropyl-N-(2-methoxyethyl) amino)-propoxy)-5-methoxyphenyl]benzothiazoline,

[[·]](+)-3-Acetyl acetyl-6-chloro-2-[2-(3-(N-(2-hydroxyethyl)-N-isopropylamino)-propoxy)-5-methoxyphenyl]benzothiazoline,

[[·]](+)-3-Acetyl acetyl-6-chloro-2-[2-(3-(N-(2-ethoxyethyl)-N-isopropylamino)-propoxy)-5-methoxyphenyl]benzothiazoline,

[[·]] (+)-3-~~Acetyl~~ acetyl-6-chloro-2-[2-(3-(N-isopropyl-N-(thiophen-2-ylmethyl)-amino)propoxy)-5-methoxyphenyl]benzothiazoline,

[[·]] (+)-3-~~Acetyl~~ acetyl-6-chloro-2-[2-(3-(N-(furan-2-ylmethyl)-N-isopropylamino)propoxy)-5-methoxyphenyl]benzothiazoline,

[[·]] (+)-3-~~Acetyl~~ acetyl-6-chloro-2-[2-(3-(N-ethyl-N-isopropylamino)propoxy)-5-methoxyphenyl]benzothiazoline,

[[·]] (+)-3-~~Acetyl~~ acetyl-6-chloro-2-[2-(3-(N,N-diisopropylamino)propoxy)-5-methoxyphenyl]benzothiazoline,

[[·]] (+)-3-~~Acetyl~~ acetyl-6-chloro-2-[2-(3-(N-isopropyl-N-methylamino)propoxy)-5-methoxyphenyl]benzothiazoline,

[[·]] (+)-3-~~Acetyl~~ acetyl-6-chloro-2-[2-(3-(N-(hydroxyethyl)-N-methylamino)-propoxy)-5-methoxyphenyl]benzothiazoline,

[[·]] (-)-3-~~Acetyl~~ acetyl-6-chloro-2-[2-(3-(N-isopropyl-N-(2-methoxyethyl)amino)propoxy)-5-methoxyphenyl]benzothiazoline,

[[·]] (-)-3-~~Acetyl~~ acetyl-6-chloro-2-[2-(3-(N-(2-hydroxyethyl)-N-isopropylamino)propoxy)-5-methoxyphenyl]benzothiazoline,

[[·]] (-)-3-~~Acetyl~~ acetyl-6-chloro-2-[2-(3-(N-(2-ethoxyethyl)-N-isopropylamino)propoxy)-5-methoxyphenyl]benzothiazoline,

[[·]] (+)-3-~~Acetyl~~ acetyl-2-[2-(3-(N-(2-ethoxyethyl)-N-isopropylamino)propoxy)-5-methoxyphenyl]benzothiazoline,

[[·]] (+)-3-Acetyl acetyl-2-[2-(3-(N-(2-hydroxyethyl)-N-isopropylamino)propoxy)-5-methoxyphenyl]benzothiazoline,

[[·]] 3--Acetyl acetyl-6-chloro-2-[2-(3-(N-isopropyl-N-(2-methoxymethoxyethyl))amino)propoxy)-5-methoxyphenyl]benzothiazoline,

[[·]] 3--Acetyl acetyl-6-chloro-2-[2-(3-(N-isopropyl-N-(2-(2-methoxyethoxy-methoxy)ethyl)amino)propoxy)-5-methoxyphenyl]benzothiazoline,

[[·]] 2-[2-(3-(N-(2-Acetoxyethyl acetoxyethyl)-N-isopropylamino)propoxy)-5-methoxyphenyl]-3-acetyl-6-chlorobenzothiazoline,

[[·]] 3--Acetyl acetyl-6-chloro-2-[2-(3-(N-isopropyl-N-(2-phenylcarboxyethyl)-amino)propoxy)-5-methoxyphenyl]benzothiazoline,

[[·]] 3--Acetyl acetyl-6-chloro-2-[2-(3-(N-hydroxy-N-isopropylamino)propoxy)-5-methoxyphenyl]benzothiazoline,

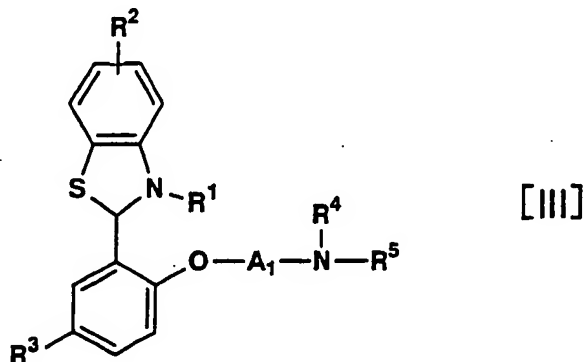
[[·]] 3--Acetyl acetyl-6-chloro-2-[2-(3-(N-cyclohexyl-N-(2-hydroxyethyl)amino)propoxy)-5-methoxyphenyl]benzothiazoline,

[[.]]3--~~Acetyl~~ acetyl-6-chloro-2-[2-(3-(N-ethyl-N-(2-hydroxyethyl)amino)propoxy)-5-methoxyphenyl]benzothiazoline,  
 [[.]]3--~~Acetyl~~ acetyl-2-[2-(3-(N-(2-ethoxyethyl)-N-isopropylamino)propoxy)-5-methoxyphenyl]benzothiazoline and  
 [[.]](+)-3-~~Acetyl~~ acetyl-2-[2-(3-(N-isopropyl-N-(2-methoxyethyl)amino)propoxy)-5-methoxyphenyl]benzothiazoline.

**Claim 9. (currently amended)** [[An]] ~~analgesic or an antipruritic~~ A composition comprising an effective pharmaceutical amount of the  $\kappa$  opioid receptor agonist as claimed in claims [[1 to]] claim 8 as an active ingredient in combination with a pharmaceutical acceptable carrier.

**Claim 10. (canceled)**

**Claim 11. (currently amended)** A compound or a salt thereof represented by the following ~~general~~ formula [III],



wherein  $R^1$  is acyl~~[[,]]~~ ;

$R^2$  is hydrogen, halogen ~~[[or]]~~ , unsubstituted alkyl ~~[[,]]~~

~~wherein the~~ or alkyl ~~can be~~ substituted by halogen;

$R^3$  is halogen or alkoxy;

$R^4$  is ~~alkyl or cycloalkyl, wherein the~~ unsubstituted alkyl ~~can be~~  
or alkyl substituted by cycloalkyl, aryl ~~[[,]]~~ or hydroxyl or an  
ester thereof or alkoxy;

$R^5$  is hydroxyl or an ester thereof, alkoxy or alkoxyalkyl; or

$R^4$  and  $R^5$  ~~can be~~ are bonded with each other to form a pyrrolidine  
ring substituted by hydroxyl or an ester thereof, alkoxy or  
alkoxyalkyl;

~~[[ $R^5$ ]] is hydroxyl or an ester thereof [[,]] alkoxy or~~

~~[[ $-A_2-$ ]] $R^6$ [[;]]~~

$R^6$  is hydroxyl or an ester thereof, alkoxy, alkoxyalkoxy,  
alkoxyalkoxyalkoxy, mercapto or alkylthio; and

$A_1$  and  $A_2$ , are the same or different, and are alkylene,

provided that (i) when  $R^4$  and  $R^5$  are bonded to each other to form  
the pyrrolidine ring substituted by hydroxyl or ~~[[the]]~~ an ester  
thereof,  $R^2$  is halogen ~~[[,]]~~ ; (ii) when  $R^4$  and  $R^5$  are bonded to  
each other to form the pyrrolidine ring substituted by  
alkoxyalkyl,  $R^2$  is hydrogen ~~[[,]]~~ ; (iii) when  $R^6$  is hydroxyl or

~~[[the]]~~ an ester thereof, R<sup>4</sup> is isopropyl.

**Claim 12. (currently amended)** The compound or a salt thereof as claimed in claim 11, wherein

R<sup>1</sup> is acyl,  
R<sup>2</sup> is hydrogen,  
R<sup>3</sup> is alkoxy,  
R<sup>4</sup> is alkyl,  
R<sup>5</sup> is hydroxyl or an ester thereof, alkoxy or -A<sub>2</sub>-R<sup>6</sup>, or  
R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> ~~can be~~ are bonded with each other to form a pyrrolidine ring substituted by alkoxy or alkoxyalkyl,  
~~[[R<sup>5</sup>]] is hydroxyl or an ester thereof [[,]] alkoxy or~~  
~~[[ -A<sub>2</sub> - ]] R<sup>6</sup> [[,]]~~  
R<sup>6</sup> is alkoxy, alkoxyalkoxy or alkoxyalkoxyalkoxy, and  
A<sub>1</sub> and A<sub>2</sub>, are the same or different, and are alkylene ~~in the~~  
~~general formula {III}~~.

**Claim 13. (currently amended)** The compound or a salt thereof as claimed in claim 11, wherein

R<sup>1</sup> is acyl,  
R<sup>2</sup> is halogen,  
R<sup>3</sup> is alkoxy,

R<sup>4</sup> is alkyl,

R<sup>5</sup> is hydroxyl or an ester thereof, alkoxy or -A<sub>2</sub>-R<sup>6</sup>, or

R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> ~~can be~~ are bonded with each other to form a pyrrolidine substituted by hydroxyl or an ester thereof or alkoxy,

~~[[R<sup>5</sup>]] is hydroxyl or an ester thereof [[,]] alkoxy or~~

~~[[ -A<sub>2</sub> - ]] R<sup>6</sup> [[,]]~~

R<sup>6</sup> is alkoxy, alkoxyalkoxy or alkoxyalkoxyalkoxy, and

A<sub>1</sub> and A<sub>2</sub>, are the same or different, and are alkylene ~~in the general formula [III].~~

**Claim 14. (currently amended)** The compound or a salt thereof as claimed in claim 11, wherein

R<sup>1</sup> is acyl,

R<sup>2</sup> is hydrogen or halogen,

R<sup>3</sup> is alkoxy,

R<sup>4</sup> is isopropyl,

R<sup>5</sup> is -A<sub>2</sub>-R<sup>6</sup>,

R<sup>6</sup> is hydroxyl or an ester thereof, and

A<sub>1</sub> and A<sub>2</sub>, are the same or different, and are alkylene ~~in the general formula [III].~~



**Claim 15. (currently amended)** A compound or a salt thereof,  
the compound being selected from the group consisting of  
[[·]]3-Acetyl acetyl-6-chloro-2-[2-(3-(N-(2-hydroxyethyl)-N-  
isopropylamino)propoxy)-5-methoxyphenyl]benzothiazoline,  
[[·]]3-Acetyl acetyl-6-chloro-2-[2-(3-(N-hydroxy-N-  
isopropylamino)propoxy)-5-methoxyphenyl]benzothiazoline,  
[[·]]3-Acetyl acetyl-6-chloro-2-[2-(3-(N-isopropyl-N-(2-  
methoxyethyl) amino)propoxy)-5-methoxyphenyl]benzothiazoline,  
[[·]]3-Acetyl acetyl-6-chloro-2-[2-(3-(N-(2-ethoxyethyl)-N-  
isopropylamino)propoxy)-5-methoxyphenyl]benzothiazoline,  
[[·]]3-Acetyl acetyl-5-chloro-2-[2-(3-(N-(2-hydroxyethyl)-N-  
isopropylamino)propoxy)-5-methoxyphenyl]benzothiazoline,  
[[·]]3-Acetyl acetyl-6-chloro-2-[2-(3-(N-(2-hydroxyethyl)-N-  
isopropylamino)-1-methylpropoxy)-5-methoxyphenyl]benzothiazoline,  
[[·]]3-Acetyl acetyl-2-[2-(3-(N-(2-ethoxyethyl)-N-  
isopropylamino)propoxy)-5-methoxyphenyl]benzothiazoline,  
[[·]](+)-3-Acetyl acetyl-6-chloro-2-[2-(3-(N-isopropyl-N-(2-  
methoxyethyl) amino)propoxy)-5-methoxyphenyl]benzothiazoline,  
[[·]](+)-3-Acetyl acetyl-6-chloro-2-[2-(3-(N-(2-hydroxyethyl)-N-  
isopropylamino)propoxy)-5-methoxyphenyl]benzothiazoline,

[[·]] (+)-3-Acetyl acetyl-6-chloro-2-[2-(3-(N-(2-ethoxyethyl)-N-isopropylamino)propoxy)-5-methoxyphenyl]benzothiazoline,

[[·]] (+)-3-Acetyl acetyl-2-[2-(3-(N-(2-ethoxyethyl)-N-isopropylamino)propoxy)-5-methoxyphenyl]benzothiazoline,

[[·]] 3-Acetyl acetyl-6-chloro-2-[2-(3-(N-isopropyl-(N-(2-methoxymethyloxyethyl))amino)propoxy)-5-methoxyphenyl]benzothiazoline,

[[·]] 3-Acetyl acetyl-6-chloro-2-[2-(3-(N-isopropyl-N-(2-(2-methoxyethoxymethoxy)ethyl)amino)propoxy)-5-methoxyphenyl]benzothiazoline,

[[·]] 2-[2-(3-(N-(2-Acetoxyethyl) acetoxyethyl)-N-isopropylamino)propoxy)-5-methoxyphenyl]-3-acetyl-6-chlorobenzothiazoline and

[[·]] 3-Acetyl acetyl-6-chloro-2-[2-(3-(N-isopropyl-N-(2-phenylcarboxyethyl)amino)propoxy)-5-methoxyphenyl]benzothiazoline.

**Claim 16. (new)** A method of treating pain or pruritus comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a pharmaceutically effective amount of the kappa opioid receptor agonist according to claim 8.

**Claim 17. (new)** A method of treating pain or pruritus comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a pharmaceutically effective amount of the compound or salt according to claim 11.

**Claim 18. (new)** A method of treating pain or pruritus comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a pharmaceutically effective amount of the compound or salt according to claim 12.

**Claim 19. (new)** A method of treating pain or pruritus comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a pharmaceutically effective amount of the compound or salt according to claim 13.

**Claim 20. (new)** A method of treating pain or pruritus comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a pharmaceutically effective amount of the compound or salt according to claim 14.

**Claim 21. (new)** A method of treating pain or pruritus comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a

pharmaceutically effective amount of the compound or salt according to claim 15.

**Claim 22. (new)** The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the method is for treating pain caused by a rheumatic disease.

**Claim 23. (new)** The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the method is for treating pain caused by a rheumatic disease.

**Claim 24. (new)** The method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the method is for treating pain caused by a rheumatic disease.

**Claim 25. (new)** The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the method is for treating pain caused by a rheumatic disease.

**Claim 26. (new)** The method as claimed in claim 20, wherein the method is for treating pain caused by a rheumatic disease.

**Claim 27. (new)** The method as claimed in claim 21, wherein the method is for treating pain caused by a rheumatic disease.